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PARENT SUBSIDY

...a way for parents to help their
retarded children at home

Information prepared by...
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Question: What is the Parent Subsidy?

Answer: It's a unique pilot program passed by the 1975 Minnesota Legislature. It helps families provide or purchase services for their retarded child at home that the child otherwise would receive in a state hospital or community facility. (The child may leave the home to receive some of the services but will reside at home.) The program helps the family who wants to keep their child at home but cannot because of the heavy personal and financial responsibilities.

Because the family is basically responsible for the child's care, parents can strongly influence the individual program plan. Quarterly reviews will help evaluate the child's progress and keep the plan appropriate.

The Parent Subsidy saves the taxpayer's money by preventing placement in public or private facilities. The county and state welfare departments help the family find resources to serve the child.

Question: How much money is available?

Answer: Each family may receive up to \$250 a month, depending on the needs of the individual child for services such as therapist and nursing fees, child care or parental relief, training and education programs, and transportation costs. The 1975 Legislature authorized \$300,000 for the current biennium. About 50 families will be selected.

Question: Who is eligible?

Answer: The State Department of Public Welfare will select the families, with assistance from MinnARC.

Any family may apply if it has a child who is retarded under 18 years of age who is eligible for placement in a public or private facility, whether that child currently lives at home or away. The program is seeking a cross section of participants; therefore, families are encouraged to apply no matter what their income, the age or ability level of the child, or whether the family currently receives any public assistance. (Participation in the parent subsidy program does not affect eligibility for income-maintenance programs if there is no duplication of basic maintenance costs.) Families who receive food stamps should count the Parent Subsidy as income and deduct their expenditures of it as medical expenditures.

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Question: How do I apply?

Answer: Contact your county welfare department. Its staff will submit the necessary information to the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, which selects the families. Early applications are encouraged.

The Minnesota A.R.C. strongly supports this new program and encourages parents to apply. If you need further help, contact Tanya Kellner at the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare - (612) 296-2014 or Dan Connor at MinnARC - (612) 827-5641.